

Military Collection
State Archives of North Carolina

John B. Mallard WWI Art Book (WWI 111)
[World War I]

Collection Number: WWI 111

Title: John B. Mallard WWI Art Book

Dates: July 1919

Creator: John B. Mallard; George L. Dooley, printer

Abstract

The John B. Mallard WWI Art Book collection is composed of one original book entitled *In the A.E.F. with an Artist* [American Expeditionary Forces], created by Lt. John B. Mallard of Lincolnton and Charlotte, N.C., who served during World War I in the U.S. Army. Mallard served in the 323rd Infantry, 81st Division, and Company E, 52nd Pioneer Infantry Regiment. The book is based on a wartime diary and artist's sketchbook which Mallard kept during WWI.

Immediately after returning to live in Charlotte, N.C. with his wife Marguerite Mallard, John Mallard took his sketches and diary entries, and created a basic 50-page sketch book which he attempted to have published. The book contained artwork Mallard recreated from his sketchbook; it gives his unit's entire movements during WWI, including while on occupation duties in Europe and his impressions of German prisoners.

Mallard's book was published in Charlotte by the local printer George L. Dooley, and copyrighted on July 10, 1919. It was well received in North Carolina, but not widely distributed. The original copy of the book in this collection was sent to the North Carolina Historical Commission by John Mallard, with his signature on the cover. Some of Mallard's illustrations from his book were used in the famous WWI publication the *Tar-Heel War Record* (In the Great World War).

Physical Description: 1 book.

Language(s): English

Repository

State Archives of North Carolina, 4614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-4614

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions of accessing this collection.

Restrictions on Use

The artwork book was published by the author in 1919, and copyrighted by the author on July 10, 1919 [according to the U.S. Library of Congress' *Catalog of Copyright Entries, Part 1: Books, Group 1, New Series, Volume 16 for the Year 1919*]. After the artist and author John B. Mallard died in 1920, the copyright passed to his wife Marguerite C. Smyly Ballard. However, it is unknown whether the copyright was renewed after 1923. However, as the copyright may remain with the author and/or the author's family under Title 17 of the U.S. Copyright Law, researchers are responsible for obtaining permission from the copyright holder(s) to use materials beyond the "fair use" clause of the U.S. Copyright Law.

Preferred Citation

[Item name or title], Folder 1, John B. Mallard WWI Art Book, WWI 111, WWI Papers, Military Collection, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C.

Acquisition

The collection was formerly part of the Compiled Individual Service Records, World War I Papers, 1903-1933 (presently, WWI 14 Compiled Individual Military Service Records). It was removed from that collection as the significance of the book warranted it being in its own collection.

This collection was acquired by the North Carolina Historical Commission (subsequently the State Archives of North Carolina) between 1919 to 1920. John B. Mallard or his wife Marguerite—responding to the Historical Commission's call for soldier and sailor service information and photographs—mailed a signed copy of the book to the North Carolina's War Records Collector Robert B. House. After he received this item, House had the donation added to the Historical Commission's accessions register.

This collection were acquired or collected as part of the North Carolina Historical Commission's on-going World War historic materials collection project, which was authorized by Sections 3 and 4 of Chapter 144 of the North Carolina Public Laws and Resolutions in 1919.

Processing Information

During the 1920s, the North Carolina Historical Commission worked on arranging the World War I Papers in groups of common themes or creators, including adding these materials to the "Compiled Individual Service Records" series. In 1964, Maurice S. Toler and John R. Woodard of the North Carolina Department of Archives and History prepared a finding aid for the "World War I Papers, 1903-1933," which consisted of thirteen series of records. This was the first known formal organization of the World War I materials, and a basic finding aid for these papers completed to the box and item level was finalized on June 30, 1964.

In the summer of 2017, the collection was reprocessed as "Compiled Individual Military Service Records" (WWI 14) to better reflect the original intent of the records' creators. Mallard's book

was removed from that collection as the significance of the book warranted it being in its own collection. It was removed because it did not correspond with the amount of type of materials WWI War Records Collector Robert B. House intended to be part of what became the collection “Compiled Individual Service Records.”

The collection was organized in an acid-free archival folder. The cover of the book—which was simply stapled to the book’s pages—has come off of the book at the time of this writing. The book with cover was stored together in the folder to keep them together, until such time as conservation treatment could be applied to the book.

Processed by: Matthew M. Peek, February 2018.

Arrangement: There is no arrangement for this collection.

Biographical Note

John Bethea Mallard was born on June 25, 1896, in the city of Rock Hill in York County, S.C., to John and Cecil Mae Murray Mallard. By 1900, the Mallard family was living in the town of Lincolnton in Lincoln County, N.C., where John Mallard worked as a produce dealer. By 1910, John Mallard was listed as working as a meat cutter, though he ran his own market called Mallard’s Market in Lincolnton—where he supplied food and supplies apparently. As a teenager, John B. Mallard appears to have run a Kodak photographic development business out of his father’s market. John B. Mallard attended the Lincolnton Graded School, during which time he participated in a number of county and statewide student competitions. This included serving as a contestant at the statewide Declamation Contest in Durham, N.C., in 1913.

John B. Mallard attended college at Davidson College in Davidson, N.C. during the 1914-1915 and 1915-1916 school years. In 1915 as a freshman, he was a member of the college’s Kodak Club, which operated as an early camera club with Kodak box cameras. In the 1916 school year during his sophomore year, Mallard was one of the editors for Davidson College’s yearbook *Quips and Cranks*. By January 1916, he was a member of the college’s Charlie Chaplin Club, based on the famous silent film actor.

In January 1916, Mallard also participated in the Peace Contest Oratoricals held at Davidson, with his speech being “Peace” (based on the ongoing world war at the time). He had won a gold medal for oratory in a similar contest at the school. In 1916 with the re-election of Woodrow Wilson as U.S. President, John Mallard painted the face of Woodrow Wilson on the old Chambers building at Davidson College. The painting was reported to have remained visible on the building for a number of years after his college days there. Mallard developed an interest in commercial art, and one newspaper reported at the time of his death that he had graduated from an unidentified art school in Chicago.

For his senior year during the 1916-1917 school year, Mallard transferred to Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. While there, he worked as one of the artists for the school’s yearbook *Calyx*. While a student at Washington and Lee, John B. Mallard traveled to Washington, D.C., and took out a marriage license on March 12, 1917, for him and his girlfriend

Marguerite C. Smyly (who went by “Polly”) of Charlotte, N.C. However, the couple never appeared before the Presbyterian minister in Washington that they listed on the marriage license. Something unknown happened to stop the couple’s plan—which may have been a decision to enlist in the U.S. Army Reserves.

While at Washington and Lee University, John Mallard enlisted in the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC), and went to the summer training camp at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, from May to August 1917. With the United States’ entrance into World War I, Mallard was called from the Army Reserves into active service at the end of the ROTC training camp on August 15, 1917, as a commissioned officer with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Mallard was assigned to Camp Jackson, S.C., in the 323rd Infantry, 81st Division, U.S. Army. Later, he moved with his unit to Camp Wadsworth in Spartanburg, S.C. While at Camp Wadsworth, John Mallard married Marguerite C. Smyly on July 10, 1918, in Charlotte, N.C., at her mother’s house. The couple spent a few days for a honeymoon in Asheville, N.C.

John Mallard was transferred to Camp Upton, New York, in preparation for his unit to travel overseas for WWI. On August 3, 1918, Mallard left aboard a troop transport ship for Europe. He was wounded in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in late 1918, but apparently escaped from severe injury. He and his unit was at Avocourt, France, in September 1918. His unit next arrived at the French village of Montfaucon. Mallard was transferred at some point to Company E, 52nd Pioneer Infantry Regiment, in which unit he remained for the rest of his service. During the war to help him cope with what he saw, Mallard kept a diary and a sketchbook, in which he drew anything that captured his imagination.

After leaving from Brest, France, Mallard arrived back in the United States aboard a troop transport ship on April 11, 1919, and was sent to Camp Dix, New Jersey. He was honorably discharged from active military service on April 12, 1919. Immediately after returning to live in Charlotte with his wife at her mother’s house, Mallard took his sketches and diary entries and created a basic 50-page sketch book which he attempted to have published. The book was titled *In the A.E.F. [American Expeditionary Forces] with an Artist*, and contained artwork Mallard recreated from his sketchbook. The book gives his unit’s entire movements during WWI, including while on occupation duties in Europe and his impressions of German prisoners. Mallard states in the book’s introduction that:

“The sketches are more than mere renderings of scenes and events. They are direct and personal impressions of one who has come in close contact with the realities of war, its horrors, crimes, atrocities and sufferings of which human nature is capable. The original sketches were made under difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions and with the purpose of that you be enabled to get the better insight into the character and spirit of modern warfare in its various aspects.”

Mallard’s book was published in Charlotte by the local printer George L. Dooley, and copyrighted on July 10, 1919. The book was well received and advertised in North Carolina. After the book was published, John Mallard became a commercial artist for the Charlotte newspaper *The Presbyterian Standard*. Tragedy struck the 24 ½-year old John B. Mallard when

he died on December 27, 1920, while undergoing an operation for appendicitis at the privately-owned Charlotte Sanatorium hospital. His body was sent back to his family's home in Lincolnton, N.C., where he was buried on December 29, 1920, at Hollybrook Cemetery in the same city.

His wife Marguerite Mallard never remarried. She gave permission for John Mallard's illustrations from his book and other drawings to be utilized in the famous WWI publication the *Tar-Heel War Record* (In the Great World War), compiled by J. R. Graham and published in Charlotte by the World War Publishing Company in 1921. This publication has remained one of the main sources for information on North Carolina WWI servicemen a century after it was compiled.

Scope and Content

The collection is composed of one original book entitled *In the A.E.F. with an Artist* [American Expeditionary Forces], created by Lt. John B. Mallard of Lincolnton and Charlotte, N.C., who served during World War I in the U.S. Army. Mallard served in the 323rd Infantry, 81st Division, and Company E, 52nd Pioneer Infantry Regiment. The book is based on a wartime diary and artist's sketchbook which Mallard kept during WWI.

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Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Mallard, John B. (John Bethea), 1896-1920

Places

Charlotte (N.C.)
Fort Oglethorpe (Ga.)
Lincoln County (N.C.)
Lincolnton (N.C.)

Subject—Topical

Davidson College
United States. Army. Infantry Division, 81st
United States. Army. Infantry Regiment, 323rd
United States. Army. Pioneer Infantry Regiment, 52nd
United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps
Washington and Lee University

Material Types

Artists' books

Collection Inventory

Folder	Description	Date
1	<i>In the A.E.F. with an Artist Book</i>	July 1919